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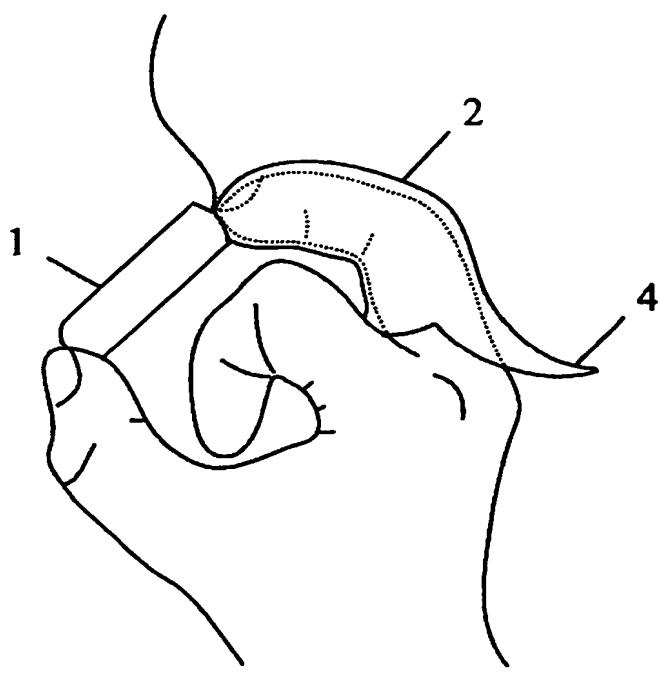
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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: AUXILIARY PRODUCT FOR USE WITH A TAMPON



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a packaging for a tampon (1), in which the packaging (2; 10, 11) is formed such that it is suited to function as a finger protection during use of the tampon (1), whereby the packaging (2; 10, 11) prevents contact between fingers and vaginal fluids. The present invention also relates to a method for use of such packaging (2; 10, 11).

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Auxiliary product for use with a tampon

The present invention relates to an auxiliary product for use with a tampon, more specifically a device and method for packaging, inserting, and after use, dispose of
5 a tampon.

A number of different kinds of tampons are commercially available today. The basic configurations of tampons are primarily similar and thoroughly tested. Different methods to insert a tampon without staining ones fingers exist. One product,
10 with the trademark Tampax, utilizes a telescopic insertion mechanism that contributes to insert the tampon into the vagina, without a need for the fingers to get into contact with the vaginal fluids in the vagina. The mechanism works satisfactorily, but has certain disadvantages. Firstly, it may be difficult to position the tampon in the vagina in such a way that it cannot be felt. The tampon must not only be placed sufficiently far into the vagina, such that it is positioned beyond the muscles
15 around the opening of the vagina and thereby causes discomfort, but it must also be oriented correctly inside the vagina. The Tampax mechanism makes it hard to position the tampon correctly, and this is one of the reasons many users prefer to employ tampons that require that the fingers come in contact with the vaginal fluids.
20 Another drawback with the Tampax mechanism is that the combination of the insertion mechanism and the tampon results in a relatively long unit that takes up more space and requires more packaging material.

GB 2 227 666 A discloses a solution for the abovementioned problem, in which a
25 skirt that makes up a finger protection is arranged on the rear end of, or around, the tampon. A finger may be inserted into the skirt and the tampon, whereupon the tampon may be inserted into the vagina and be correctly oriented, the skirt protecting the finger against the skin around the vagina. When the tampon is positioned correctly, the finger is drawn out, the skirt hanging down, possibly with a tab sticking outside the vagina, the tab functioning as an extraction string after use. The
30 skirt that hangs out of the vagina opening may irritate the skin around the vagina, in addition to functioning as a leakage path for vaginal discharge and menstrual fluids.

The object of the present invention is to provide a solution that is not encumbered with the abovementioned drawbacks. This object is reached by means of a device of the kind that is characterized by the features indicated in the characterizing 5 clause of claim 1 and of a method characterized by the features indicated in the characterizing clause of claim 6. Further advantageous features are indicated in the dependent claims.

10 The following description comprises non-limiting examples of advantageous embodiments of the present invention, with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a tampon that is sealed in one embodiment of a packaging according to the present invention;

15

Fig. 2 shows the tampon and packaging in Fig. 1, where the packaging is opened;

Fig. 3-5 shows how the packaging according to one embodiment of the invention may be used;

20

Fig. 6 shows a tampon that is sealed in another embodiment of the present invention, in which this embodiment comprises a two-part packaging; and

25 Fig. 7 shows the tampon and the packaging in Fig. 6, where the outer packaging is opened.

Fig. 1 shows a tampon 1 that is sealed in a packaging 2. In one embodiment of the packaging 2, an aperture 3 is arranged such that two tabs 4 are formed when the packaging has been opened (Fig. 2). These tabs 4 make it easier to handle the 30 packaging during use. When the packaging has been opened, the tampon is grabbed as shown in Fig. 3, with the thumb on the tampon point 5 and the index finger or middle finger on the rear end 6 of the tampon. Then the packaging 2 is turned inside out over the index finger or possibly middle finger as shown in Fig. 4 and 5,

the packaging 2 now forming a finger protection or glove. The tampon 1 may now be inserted into the vagina in a correct manner, without the fingers coming into contact with the vaginal fluids.

- 5 If a used tampon is replaced, the used tampon may be disposed of in the packaging 2 by carrying out the same steps outlined above, only in reverse.

The packaging will thus function both as sealing means, a finger protection and a disposal bag. This may be of great advantage, especially during situations with

- 10 bad sanitary conditions, such as cabin trips, camping trips or in public places such as bars, restaurants, gyms etc.. In addition, the disposal bag function of the packaging contributes to reduce littering. Since the packaging functions as a disposal bag in itself, the total amount of litter is reduced to a minimum and it is not spread about.

15

- Figs. 6 to 8 show a second embodiment of the present invention, in which the tampon 1 is packed into two bags 10, 11. The outer bag or packaging 11 may thus be used as a finger protection for the index finger or middle finger, and the inner bag or packaging 10 forms a finger protection for the thumb, or *vice versa*. With this 20 embodiment it may possibly be easier to handle a used tampon without getting into finger contact with menstrual fluids during disposal.

- A very important advantage of the present invention is that the tampon may be handled in a completely sterile manner, because the tampon under no circumstance comes into contact with bare fingers that otherwise may contribute to transmission of unwanted bacteria or contamination to the vaginal area.

- During use of this second embodiment of the present invention, the same steps are generally followed as with the first embodiment shown above, except that the 30 second embodiment comprises two bags or packages 10, 11, one outside the other, where only the outer bag or package 11 has to be sealed. The outer bag or package 11 is opened and pulled onto the index finger or middle finger, and the inner bag or packaging 10 is pulled onto the thumb, or *vice versa*. When the new tampon 1 is positioned correctly, the old tampon is grabbed by the two fingers that

are covered by the bags or finger protection 10, 11, without any risk of getting into contact with vaginal fluids, whereupon the bags or finger protection are pulled over the used tampon, first one (10), then the other (11), until the used tampon finally is completely wrapped up and easily may be stuck into a pocket or a purse for later 5 disposal in a suitable manner, for example into a trash can. In addition, the present invention does not result in loose and ripped up pieces of packaging, as with the currently available tampons.

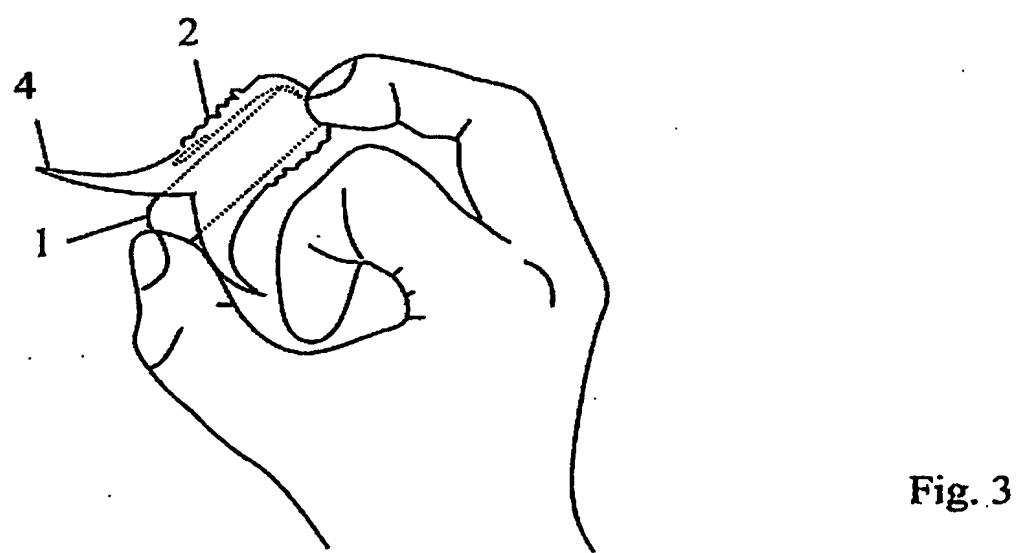
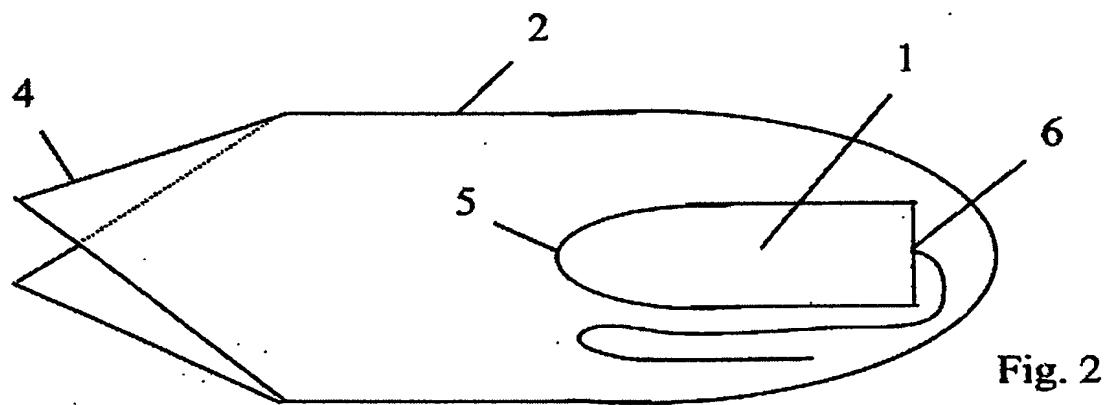
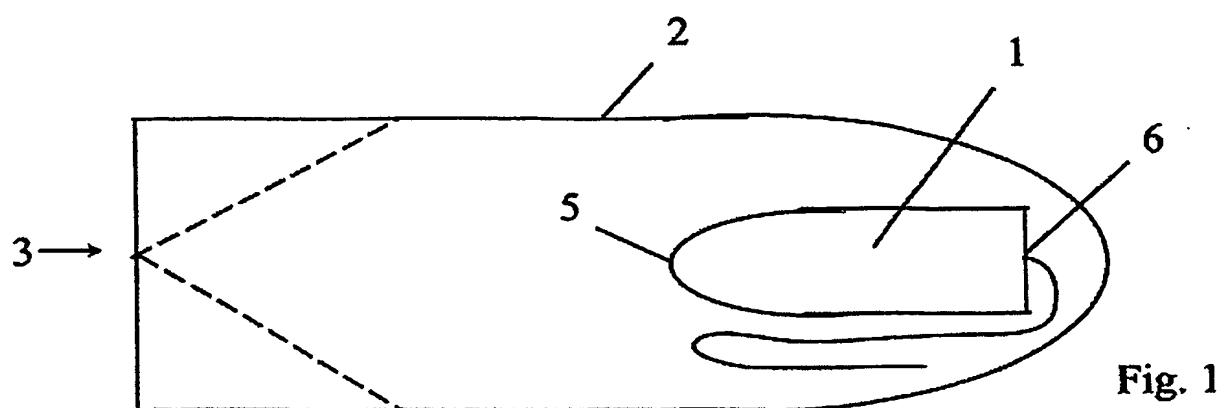
It is understood that the packaging 10, 11 may be produced by any suitable material, primarily a plastic or rubber-like material that is strong and flexible enough to work in a reliable manner. The material must also be adapted to the sealing method that is chosen, this being welding, use of an adhesive etc., in addition to that it should be adapted for easy opening and possible forming of functional tabs 4. It may also be possible to use a locking mechanism of a "zip-lock" kind, enabling the 15 packaging to be sealed after use. It is understood that the possible tabs 4 do not have to take on the shape that is shown in Fig. 2 and 7, but just as easily may be rounded, cornered etc., or the packages may only be split along parts of the edges.

20 The tampons used in conjunction with the present invention may be of any kind. The bags or packages 2, 10, 11 may be adapted to any kind and size of tampon.

C L A I M S

1. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) comprising at least one bag that keeps the tampon (1) sterile before use,
5 characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) is adapted to cover at least one finger, preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with the tampon (1) and thereby contaminating the tampon (1), or preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with menstrual fluids while inserting the tampon (1), the packaging (2; 10, 11) further being
10 adapted for use as a disposal bag for a used tampon (1) by turning the packaging inside out over the used tampon, the packaging being made of a sufficiently strong and flexible material, with a shape and size that fits over a finger.
- 15 2. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1, characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises two bags that can be used to cover two fingers, one bag being sufficiently large to be able to cover a thumb.
- 20 3. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a seal (3) of the packaging (2; 10, 11) may be broken so as to create tabs (4), the tabs (4) facilitating use of the packaging (2; 10, 11) as finger protection.
25
4. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 3, characterized in that the seal of the packaging (2; 10, 11) is formed by welding, use of adherents, or a zip-lock type closing mechanism.
- 30 5. A packaging according to any of the previous claims, in which the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises any suitable material, preferably a plastic or rubber-like material.

6. A method for use of a tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11), characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:
- breaking the seal of the packaging (2; 10, 11),
 - grabbing the tampon (1) while it still sits in the opened packaging (2; 10, 11), the thumb being used to grab the front end of the tampon (5) and the index or middle finger being used to grab the rear end of the tampon (6),
 - pulling the packaging (2; 10, 11) over the index or middle finger and the thumb, or *vice versa*, the packaging (2; 10, 11) thereby forming a finger protection,
- 10 -inserting and positioning the tampon (1) correctly in the body of the user by means of the index or middle finger, and later on
- grabbing a possible used tampon between the index or middle finger and the thumb that are protected by the packaging (2; 10, 11), and finally turn the packaging (2; 10, 11) inside out over the used tampon, such that the used tampon and the packaging (2; 10, 11) may be disposed of when and where suitable.



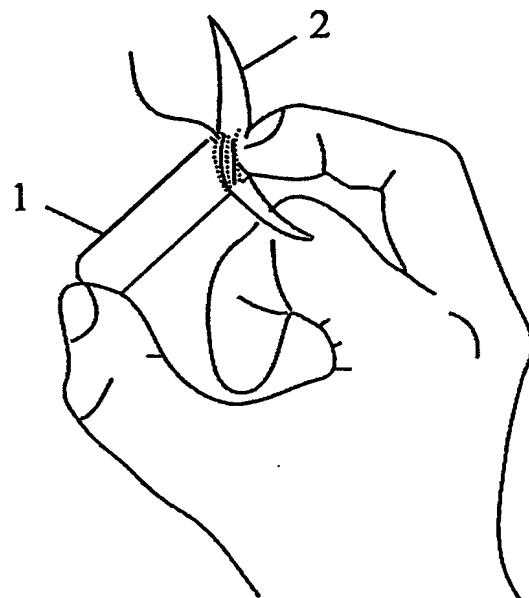


Fig. 4

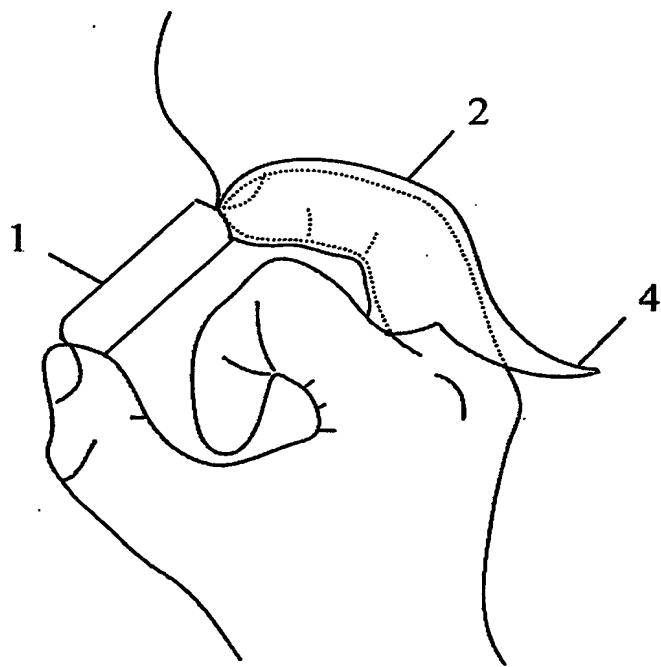


Fig. 5

3/4

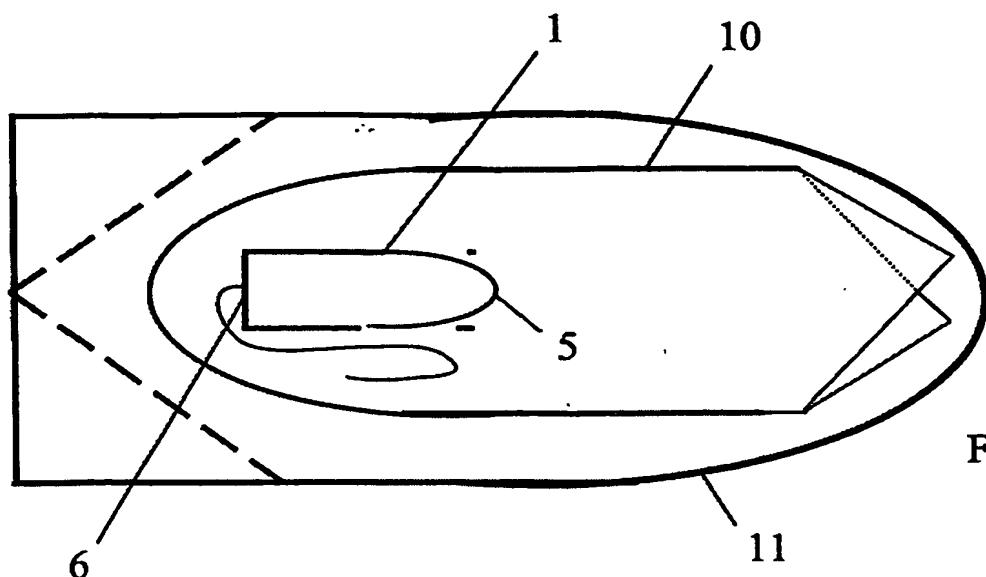


Fig. 6

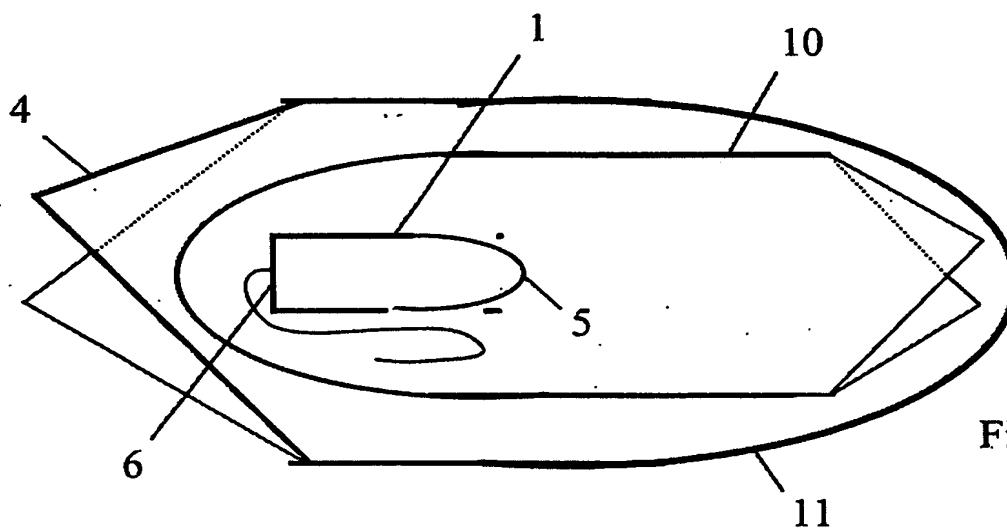


Fig. 7

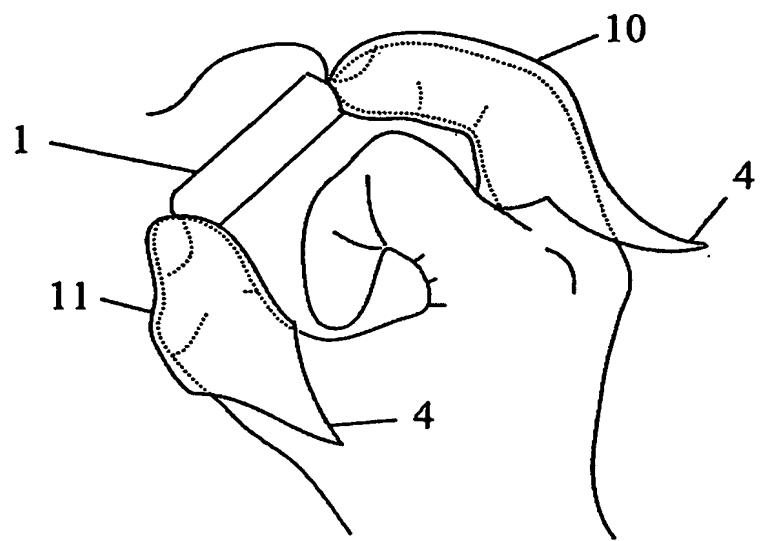


Fig. 8

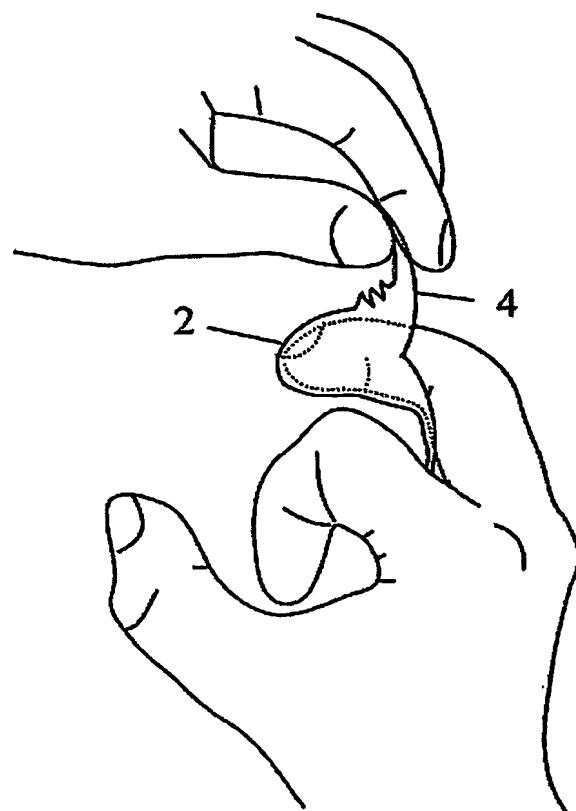


Fig. 9

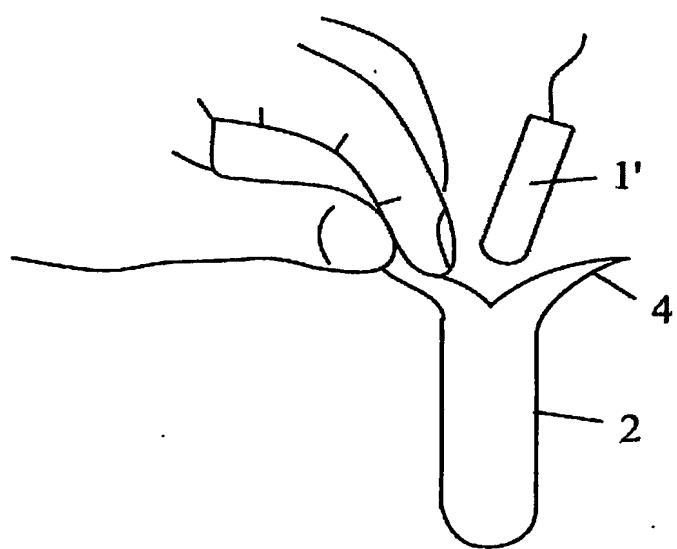


Fig. 10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NO 2003/000353

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61F 13/20, A61F 15/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI, PAJ, FULLTEXT, EPOQUE, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2227666 A (TAMBRANDS LIMITED), 8 August 1990 (08.08.1990), page 1, line 7 - page 2, line 34, figures 1-7, claims 1-10 --	1-6
X	US 4212301 A (RUSSELL L. JOHNSON), 15 July 1980 (15.07.1980), column 2, line 5 - line 61, figures 1-30, claims 1-15 --	1-6
P,A	US 2003/0097108 A (MARGARET HENDERSON HASSE ET AL), 22 May 2003 (22.05.2003), claim 20, sida 1, lines (0004)-(0005) --	1-6

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "B" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

30-01-2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NO 2003/000353

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0213241 A1 (CREATIVE RESOURCES, INC.), 11 March 1987 (11.03.1987), figures 1-21, abstract -- -----	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

24/12/2003

International application No.
PCT/NO 2003/000353

GB	2227666	A	08/08/1990	GB	8824514	D	00/00/0000
US	4212301	A	15/07/1980	NONE			
US	2003/0097108	A	22/05/2003	NONE			
EP	0213241	A1	11/03/1987	NONE			

C L A I M S

1. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) comprising at least one bag that keeps the tampon (1) sterile before use,
5 characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) is adapted to cover at least one finger, preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with the tampon (1) and thereby contaminating the tampon (1), or preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with menstrual fluids while inserting the tampon (1), the packaging (2; 10, 11) further being adapted for use as a disposal bag for a used tampon (1) by turning the packaging inside out over the used tampon, the packaging being made of a sufficiently strong and flexible material, with a shape and size that fits over a finger.
10
- 15 2. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1, characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises two bags that can be used to cover two fingers, one bag being sufficiently large to be able to cover a thumb.
- 20 3. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a seal (3) of the packaging (2; 10, 11) may be broken so as to create tabs (4), the tabs (4) facilitating use of the packaging (2; 10, 11) as finger protection.
25
4. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 3, characterized in that the seal of the packaging (2; 10, 11) is formed by welding, use of adherents, or a zip-lock type closing mechanism.
30
5. A packaging according to any of the previous claims, in which the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises any suitable material, preferably a plastic or rubber-like material.

5 REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

6. A method for use of a tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11), characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:
- breaking the seal of the packaging (2; 10, 11),
 - grabbing the tampon (1) while it still sits in the opened packaging (2; 10, 11), the thumb being used to grab the front end of the tampon (5) and the index or middle finger being used to grab the rear end of the tampon (6),
 - pulling the packaging (2; 10, 11) over the index or middle finger and the thumb, or vice versa, the packaging (2; 10, 11) thereby forming a finger protection,
- 10 -inserting and positioning the tampon (1) correctly in the body of the user by means of the index or middle finger, and later on
- grabbing a possible used tampon between the index or middle finger and the thumb that are protected by the packaging (2; 10, 11), and finally turn the packaging (2; 10, 11) inside out over the used tampon, such that the used tampon and the packaging (2; 10, 11) may be disposed of when and where suitable.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
 COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

To: BRYN AARFLOT AS

25 MAI 2004

BRYN AARFLOT AS
 P.O. Box 449, Sentrum
 N-0104 Oslo
 NORVÈGE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 108480/CCS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No. PCT/NO2003/000353	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 October 2003 (24.10.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 01 November 2002 (01.11.2002)
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Applicant TORKILDSEN, Annette et al
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- Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this notice:

AU, AZ, BY, CH, CN, CO, DZ, EP, HU, JP, KG, KP, KR, MD, MK, MZ, RU, TM, US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

- The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EA, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MG, MN, MW, MX, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

- Enclosed with this notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on
 13 May 2004 (13.05.2004) under No. WO 2004/039297

4. TIME LIMITS for filing a demand for international preliminary examination and for entry into the national phase

The applicable time limit for entering the national phase will, subject to what is said in the following paragraph, be 30 MONTHS from the priority date, not only in respect of any elected Office if a demand for international preliminary examination is filed before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, but also in respect of any designated Office, in the absence of filing of such demand, where Article 22(1) as modified with effect from 1 April 2002 applies in respect of that designated Office. For further details, see *PCT Gazette* No. 44/2001 of 1 November 2001, pages 19926, 19932 and 19934, as well as the *PCT Newsletter*, October and November 2001 and February 2002 issues.

In practice, time limits other than the 30-month time limit will continue to apply, for various periods of time, in respect of certain designated or elected Offices. For regular updates on the applicable time limits (20, 21, 30 or 31 months, or other time limit), Office by Office, refer to the *PCT Gazette*, the *PCT Newsletter* and the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, all available from WIPO's Internet site, at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>.

For filing a demand for international preliminary examination, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Chapter IX. Only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination (at present, all PCT Contracting States are bound by Chapter II).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor all these time limits.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Beate Giffo-Schmitt

Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35

Facsimile No.+41 22 338 87 20

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

BRYN AARFLOT AS
P.O. Box 449 Sentrum
0104 Oslo
NORVEGE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

21.01.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference
108480

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/NO 03/00353International filing date (day/month/year)
24.10.2003Priority date (day/month/year)
01.11.2002

Applicant

TORKILDSEN, Annette et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed invention is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international
preliminary examining authority:

European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
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Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Fernández Gomez, L

Tel. +49 89 2399-7449



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 108480	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F13/20		
Applicant TORKILDSEN, Annette et al.		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains Indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27.05.2004	Date of completion of this report 21.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Lanniel, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2062



JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 APR 2005

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-4 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-4 received on 23.12.2004 with letter of 23.12.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The invention relates to a tampon and finger protective packaging, which comprises at least one sealed bag that keeps the tampon sterile before use, the bag being of plastic material adapted after opening for use as a finger glove by turning the bag inside out over the at least one finger.

GB-A-2 227 666 discloses a tampon comprising a body of compressed absorbent material and a skirt fixed to and extending from one end of the tampon to form a finger cover.

There is no disclosure of the use of the packaging as a finger glove during insertion of the tampon.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-4
No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-4
No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-4
No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
 (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 108480	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61F13/20		
Applicant TORKILDSEN, Annette et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27.05.2004	Date of completion of this report 21.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Lanniel, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2062



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-4 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-4 received on 23.12.2004 with letter of 23.12.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/NO 03/00353

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The invention relates to a tampon and finger protective packaging, which comprises at least one sealed bag that keeps the tampon sterile before use, the bag being of plastic material adapted after opening for use as a finger glove by turning the bag inside out over the at least one finger.

GB-A-2 227 666 discloses a tampon comprising a body of compressed absorbent material and a skirt fixed to and extending from one end of the tampon to form a finger cover.

There is no disclosure of the use of the packaging as a finger glove during insertion of the tampon.

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) preventing contact between the fingers and menstrual fluids, the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprising at least one sealed bag that keeps the tampon (1) sterile before use, the packaging (2; 10, 11) further being adapted to cover at least one finger, preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with the tampon (1) and thereby contaminating the tampon (1) while inserting the tampon (1), or preventing the at least one finger from coming into contact with menstrual fluids that may contaminate the at least one finger,
characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises at least one bag of a plastic material that does not damage while opening and after opening is adapted for use as finger glove by turning the bag inside out over the at least one finger.
2. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1, characterized in that the packaging (2; 10, 11) comprises two bags, one bag covering the other bag while packed.
3. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the bag or bags comprise tabs (4), the tabs (4) facilitating use of the packaging (2; 10, 11) as finger protection.
4. Tampon and finger protecting packaging (2; 10, 11) according to any of the previous claims, characterized in that the seal of the packaging (2; 10, 11) is formed by welding, use of adherents, or a zip-lock type closing mechanism.

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